U.S. Geological Survey

OPEN FILE REPORT

Preliminary description and interpretation of cores and radiographs from Clear Lake, Lake County, California: Core 8 by

John D. Sims and Michael J. Rymer

1975 .

This report is preliminary and has not been edited or reviewed for conformity with Geological Survey standards

Report No. 75-306

CONTENTS

Г	'ext
	Introduction
	Summary of Data
	Method of Study
	Graphic Notations used in Stratigraphic description
	References
	Appendices
	Appendix A: Graphical Logs

Appendix B: X-ray Radiographs

INTRODUCTION

Clear Lake, California is located in the California Coast Ranges about 120 km north of San Francisco and is the largest freshwater lake wholly within California. The lake basin is tectonically controlled (Anderson, 1936; Brice, 1953; Sims and Rymer, 1974) and the area seismically active (Coffman and von Hake, 1973).

Interest in this lake was stimulated by hypotheses developed from a study of sediments in Van Norman Reservoir after the 1971 San Fernando earthquake (Sims, 1973). During this study three zones of deformational structures were found in the 1 m-thick sequence of sediments exposed over about 2 km² of the reservoir bottom. These zones were correlated with moderate earthquakes that shook the San Fernando area in 1930, 1952, and 1971. Results of this study, coupled with the experimental formation of deformational structures similar to those from Van Norman Reservoir, led to a search for similar structures in Pleistocene and Holocene lakes and lake sediments in other seismically active areas. Clear Lake, California was chosen specifically because of its location near the San Andreas fault and the San Francisco-Oakland urban complex, and the probability of obtaining an uninterrupted sediment record from the present into Pleistocene time. Eight 12 to 15 cm diameter continuous cores were taken from the lake sediments (fig. 1) as part of a study of earthquake induced structures in sediments and the tectonic framework of the Clear Lake basin. The eight cores range in length from 13.87 m to 113.09 m (Table 1).

SUMMARY OF DATA

Core 8 is from the northwest part of Clear Lake (fig. 1) and was taken on 5 November, 1973. Depth of water at the site is 5.2 m. The core is 21.2 m long and consists entirely of olive gray (5Y3/2 to 5Y5/2) sapropellic mud (gyttja) with five interbedded volcanic ashes (fig. 2). The colors of the

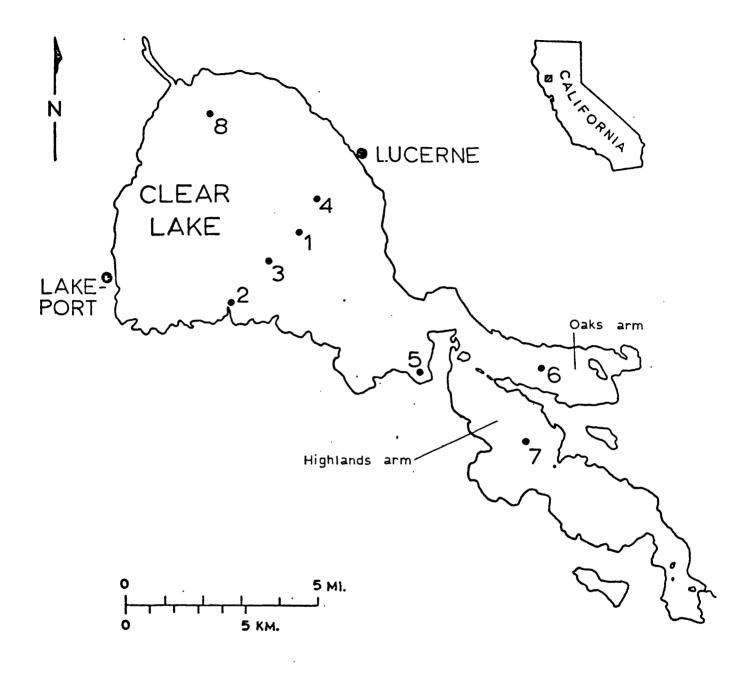


Figure 1. Map showing location of Core 8 in Clear Lake, California. Other numbered core sites in the lake are the subject of separate reports.

sediments generally recorded are those due to oxidation of the organic components. Rarely colors considered to be representative of the unoxidized sediments are recorded such as bluish gray (5B5/1). The sedimentary record in Core 8 contrasts greatly with that from Core 7 (fig. 1) (Sims and Rymer, 1975). The sediments in Core 8 represent an environment much like that prevailing in the open parts of Clear Lake today. The sediments are extensively bioturbated. This bioturbation has greatly disrupted the sediments and destroyed most of the primary and deformational (?) structures in the sediments. Thus the core is quite uniform in texture and structure throughout its length.

Five ash beds are preserved in this core. The two uppermost ash beds in Core 8 are tentatively correlated with the two uppermost ash beds in Core 7. The well preserved rhyolitic ash from Core 7, slug 17 dated at approximately 17,500 yrs. B.P. (Sims and Rymer, 1975) is tentatively correlated with the ash in slug 20, Core 8. The ash in slug 27, Core 8 is tentatively correlated with the ash in slug 23, Core 7.

Sediments in Core 8 are generally too low in organic material for ¹⁴C-age determinations. However, one ¹⁴C-age determination was performed. The analysis was performed by Meyer Rubin of the U.S. Geological Survey on a carbonaceous mud layer. The date (W-3214) is from slug 13 and is 9,850±250 yrs. B.P. This date represents a sedimentation rate of 0.93 mm yr⁻¹ for the upper half of the core. The date correlates quite well with the dates of the correlated ashes in Core 7. If the tentative correlation of the lowermost ash in Core 8 with the ash in slug 23, Core 7 is accurate then a date of approximately 24,000 yr. B.P. would represent the bottom of Core 8.

A plot of ¹⁴C-age and correlated ¹⁴C-age versus depth (fig. 3) shows the consistency of the age date from Core 8 and the correlated ash-age dates from Core 7. These data are fitted with a straight line by linear regression.

The equation of this line is y=12.10x-1286.20 and has a correlation coefficient of r=0.999. The line fit to the correlated data now allows a prediction of sediment ages at given depths.

Table 1. Total length and recovery percent of eight cores drilled in Clear Lake, California.

Core	Length (m)	Recovery (%)
1	52.58	35.0
2	13.87	88.0
3	69.04	96.0
4	115.21	92.0
5	22.56	94.0
6	21.64	99.0
7	27.43	94.9
8	20.52	99.6

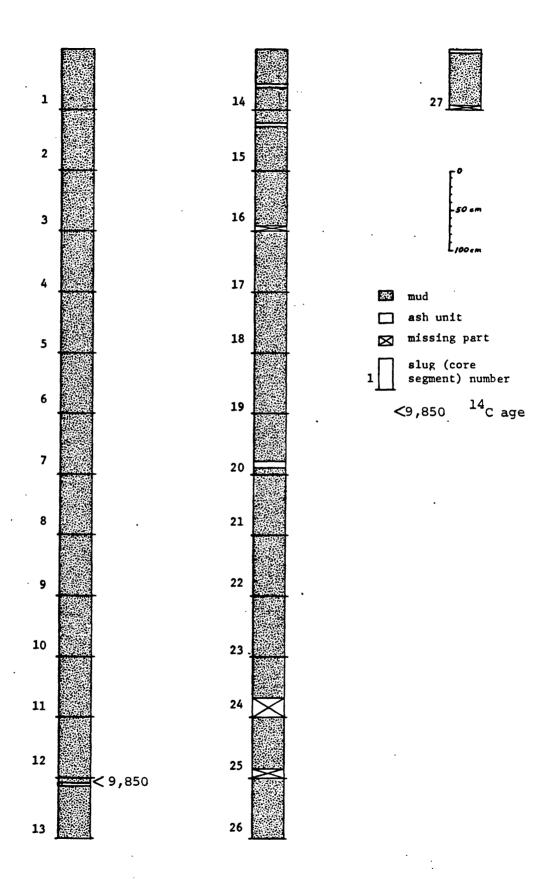


Figure 2. Generalized lithology of sediments from Core 8, Clear Lake, California.

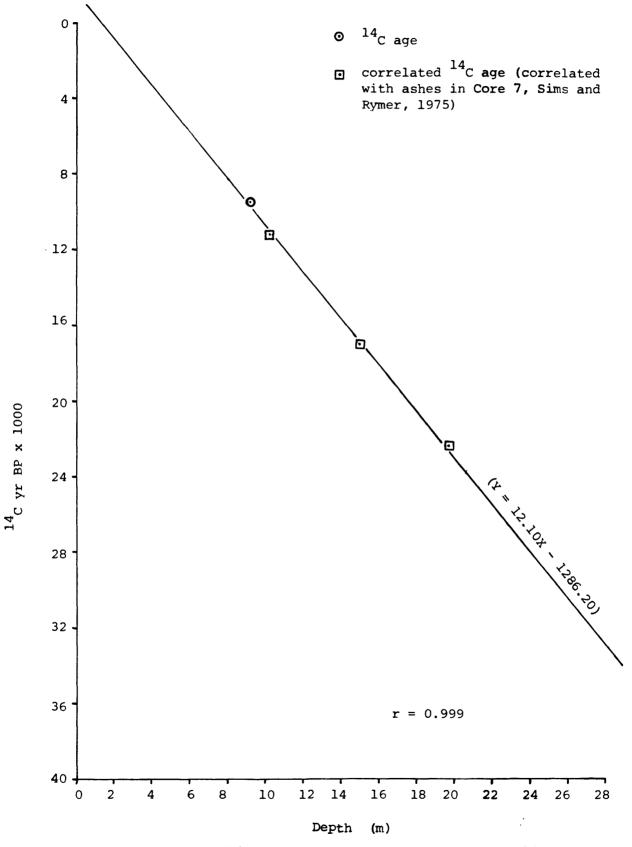


Figure 3. Plot of 14 C-age determination and correlated 14 C-age determinations and depth in Clear Lake Core 8. The line y = 12.10x - 1286.20 is fitted to the data by linear regression. The correlation coefficient (r) is 0.999.

METHOD OF STUDY

Core 8 was obtained using an Ostenberg sampler with a barge mounted drill rig. The samples were retrieved and extruded into rigid plastic tubes which were sealed with plastic endcaps, and waxed to prevent moisture loss. For examination the plastic containers were cut open and the core cut in half lengthwise using a "cheese cutter" type instrument. Lithologic and other sedimentologic data were then recorded (see Appendix A for detailed descriptions). One-half of each core segment was photographed on color and black and white film. Then a one cm thick slice was taken from the center of the core segment and an x-ray radiograph made to study the internal structures and fine details of the visible structures.

The original x-ray radiographs were taken on 30 x 43 cm sheets of industrial x-ray film at 1:1 scale. Exposures to x-radiation ranged from 4 to 6 minutes at 45 KV and 3.5 ma. The prints from the radiographs in Appendix B of this paper are photographically reduced 3.7x from the originals.

After lengthwise splitting, samples were taken from one-half of the core for other sedimentologic and paleontologic: udies as follows:

- a) bulk mineralogy
- b) cladocerae
- c) diatoms
- d) fine grain size analysis (<125 μ diameter)
- e) macro fossils
- f) pollen
- g) water content/organic carbon content

The remaining core half, resting in a rigid plastic half-round, was sealed in a polyethelane bag and retained for tuture use and reference.



These samples and the original radiographs may be examined by contacting:

John D. Sims U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Tectonics Branch 345 Middlefield Road Menlo Park, California 94025

GRAPHIC NOTATIONS USED IN STRATIGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS

The stratigraphic descriptions of each core segment (slug) are contained on individual sheets in the format shown in fig. 4. The graphical notations used in the core descriptions and radiograph interpretations in Appendix B are modified from the methods of Bouma (1962). The conventions and symbols used follow: Those symbols marked* are also used in the column entitled Radiographic.

Lithology

××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××××	ash		clayey silt
	clay		silty clay
	silt		clayey sand
	rand		sandy mud
	gravel		sandy silt
	peat	26.2062	sandy gravel
	mud		clayey peat
	silty sand		silty peat

· D

material from sides of hole as a contaminant, generally at the top of a sample (debris).

v

vivianite, an iron phosphate present in the sediments.

interlaminated strata;
dominant lithology on left
(in this example clayey peat and mud)

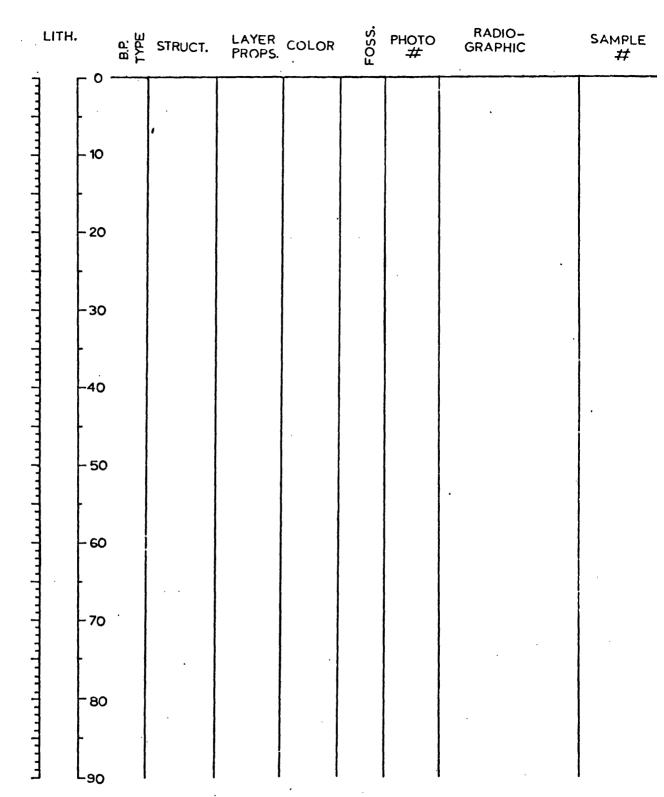


Figure 4. Form for stratigraphic descriptions of core segments (slugs) Column headings from left to right are Lithology, Bedding plane type, Bedding plane structures, Layer properties, Munsel Color designation, Fossil content, Photograph numbers, Radiographic interpretation, and Sample numbers.

Bedding Plane Type*

	Sharp flat contact
	distinct flat contact
	transition (range of transition < 0.5 cm)
	gradual transition (range of transition 0.5-1.0 cm)
•• ••	transition gradual and hardly visible (range of transition > 1.
	undulating contact; gradations as above
	irregular contact; gradations as above
•	

Structure

graded bedding

load cast
earthquake induced structure*

fault*

Interval in which structure occurs*

indistinct structure*

structure barely visible*

()

Layer Properties

parallel lamination (< 0.5 cm thick)*:</pre>

coarse laminae predominate	2
fine laminae predominate	12
parallel lamination* slightly disturbed	孝
strongly disturbed	#

^{*} Also used in column entitled Radiographic

parallel wavy lamination*	nara'	11e1	wavv	lamina	tion*
---------------------------	-------	------	------	--------	-------



(predominating thickness and degree of disturbance as noted above)

lenticular wavy lamination*



(predominating thickness and degree of disturbance as noted above)

interval in which property occurs*

indistinct property*

Color

Color designations are taken from the Munsell Soil Color Chart (Munsell, 1973). Conventions used are as follows:

distinct color break between between two units.

10Y 5/4/5YR 5/4

two colors present throughout the interval noted. First color is most prevalent and the right hand color is present as clots, belbs, or patches.

10Y 5/1 5YR 5/4

distinct interlamination throughout the interval noted.

10Y 5/4 (5YR 5/4)

oxidized color (unoxidized color) this notation is used only where partial oxidization of the sediments has occurred and the unoxidized color is readily apparent.

rossils

fish scale*

fish bone*

* Also used in column entitled Radiographic

gastropod*	0
clam*	Ω.
root	*
root level	\$
wood oriented parallel to bedding plane	0
wood not parallel to bedding plane	0
plant fragment parallel to bedding plane	•••
plant fragment not parallel to bedding plane	

Photograph Number

Numbers refer to the index number of both the color and black and white photos taken of the cut surface of the core segment.

Example: 7-1-1 refers to Core 7, Slug 1, Photo 1.

There are 5 photos for each slug in Core 8. Each photo covers approximately 20 cm of core segment length with overlap with adjacent photos.

These photos may be examined and copies made at the requestor's expense by contacting:

John D. Sims U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Tectonics Branch 345 Middlefield Road Menlo Park, California 94025

^{*} Also used in column entitled Radiographic

Radiographic

This column contains supplementary information derived from an analysis of information taken from x-ray radiographs. The notations used in this column are a combination of those marked by * under the headings Bedding Plane

Type, Bedding Plane Structure, Layer Properties, and Fossils, plus some additional special symbols not previously used (list below):

granule - an x-ray opaque small body < 1 mm in diameter.

granule cluster - a regularly to irregularly shaped mass of granules.

pebble - a large (> 3 mm diameter) x-ray opaque body.

mottling - areas of low x-ray transparency of irregular shape and unknown origin.

- bioturbation animal burrows. The degree of sediment disturbance generally accompanies this note such as: heavy, slight, etc.
- Δδ a difference in x-ray transparency between stratigraphic subunits due to compositional, grain size or other physiochemical differences.
- fractured physical breaking of the indicated part of the sediment slice that usually occurred during sample preparation prior to x-ray inspection.

Sample Number

Three types of sample numbers are present and identify samples taken for specific tests or supplementary data. The specific use and identity of samples are as follows:

1) Four digit numbers without a prefix are reserved for bulk mineralogy, fine grain size analysis (fraction < 125 µ diameter), fossil cladocerae, palynological examination, weight loss on drying, fossil diatoms and macrofossil content.

- 2) Four digits prefixed by "I" (example: I-7030). A radiocarbon date performed by Mr. James Buckley in the laboratories of Isotopes, Inc., Westwood, N.J. The absolute date and all pertinent data are listed at the bottom of the page on which the sample number occurs.
- 3) Four digits prefixed by "W" (example: W-3030). A radiocarbon date performed by Mr. Meyer Rubin in the laboratories of the U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA. The absolute date and all pertinent data are listed at the bottom of the page on which the sample number occurs.

Acknowledgements;

This project was in part financed by a grant from Lake County, California. We wish also to thank D. Adam, D. Peterson, G. Reed, D. Greenwood, I. Gassoway, P. Margolin and R. Wright for their assistance during the coring operations at Clear Lake.

REFERENCES

- Anderson, C.A., 1936, Volcanic history of the Clear Lake area, California:

 Geol. Soc. America Bull., v. 47, p. 629-664.
- Bouma, A.H., 1963, Sedimentology of some flysch deposits: Amsterdam, Elsevier Pub. Co., 168 p.
- Brice, J.C., 1953, Geology of Lower Lake Quadrangle, California: Calif.

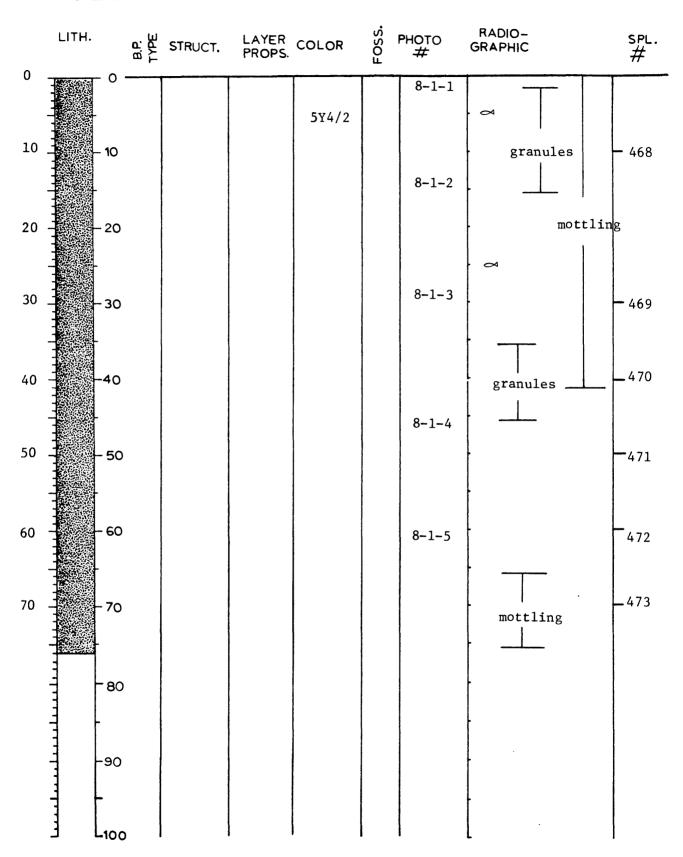
 Div. Mines, Bull. 166, 72 p.
- Coffman, J.L. and von Hake, C.A., 1973, Earthquake history of the United States: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Publication 41-1, 208 p.
- Munsell Products, 1973, Munsell Soil Color Charts, 1973 edition, Baltimore, Md., Munsell Products.
- Sims, J.D., 1973, Earthquake-induced structures in sediments of Van Norman Lake, San Fernando, California: Science, v. 182, p. 161-163.
- Sims, J.D. and Rymer, M.J., 1974, Gaseous springs in Clear Lake, California, and the structural control of the lake basin: Geol. Soc. America,

 Abstracts with Piograms, v. 6, no. 3, p. 254.
- Sims, J.D. and Rymer, M.J., 1975, Preliminary description and interpretation of cores and radiographs from Clear Lake, Lake County, California: Core 7, Open File Report No. 75-144, 21p.

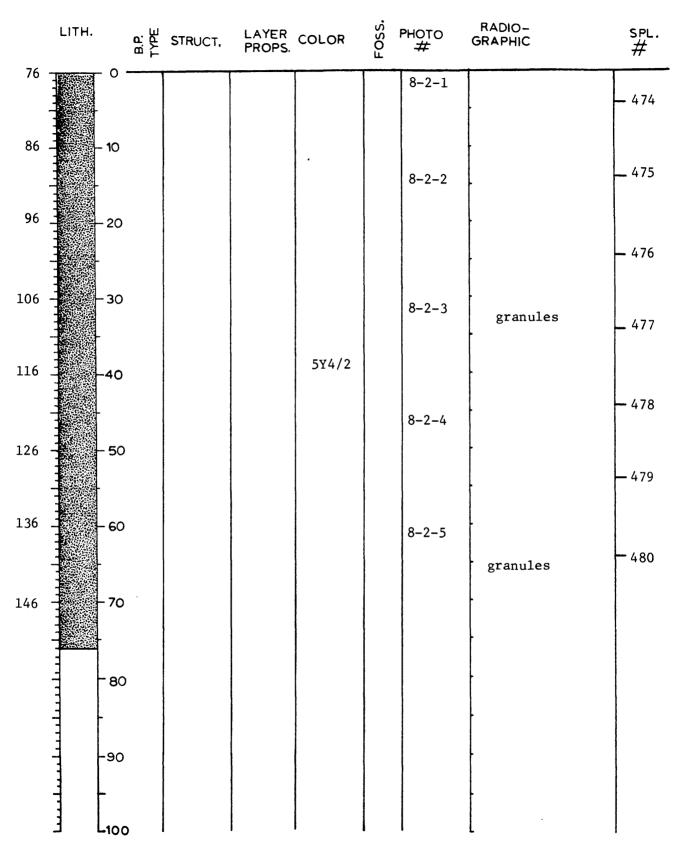
Appendix A

Graphical Logs

HOLE 8 SLUG 1 DEPTH 0 cm. to 76 cm.

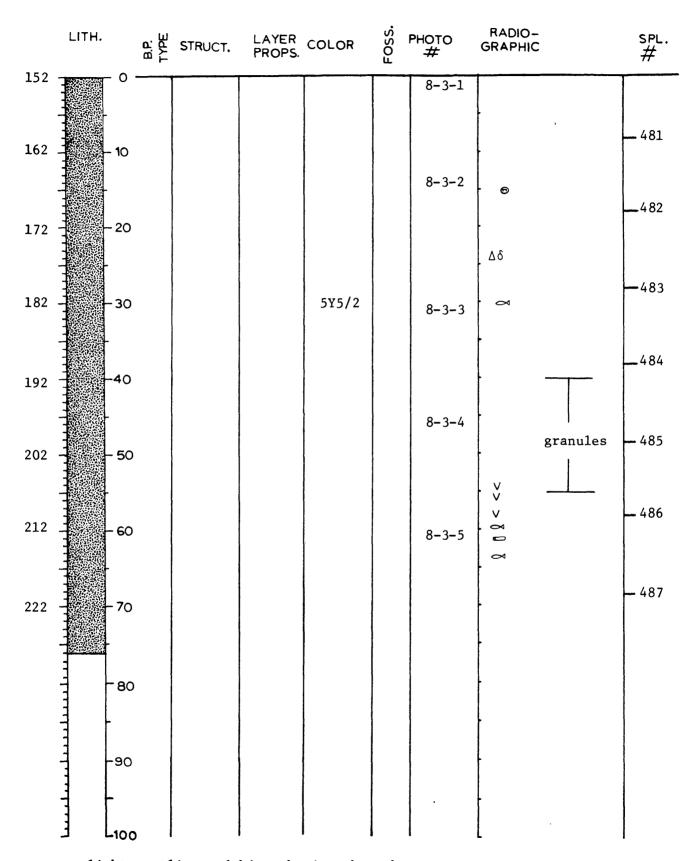


HOLE 8 SLUG 2 DEPTH 76 cm. to 152 cm.



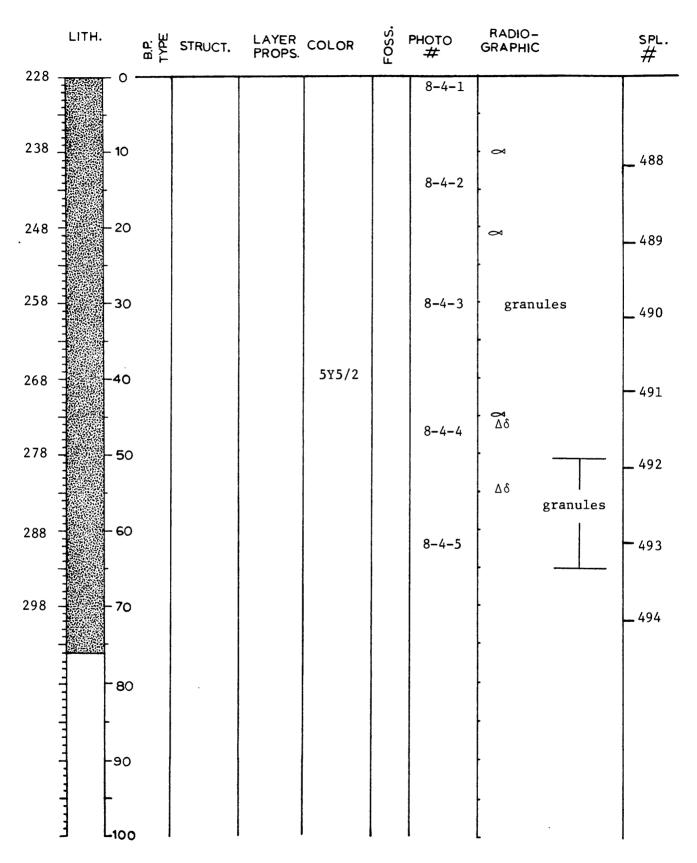
slight mottling and bioturbation throughout $1\ \mathrm{cm}$ oxidation on both sides of crack at $118\ \mathrm{cm}$ disseminated fish bones throughout

HOLE $\frac{8}{2}$ SLUG $\frac{3}{2}$ DEPTH $\frac{152}{2}$ cm. to $\frac{228}{2}$ cm.



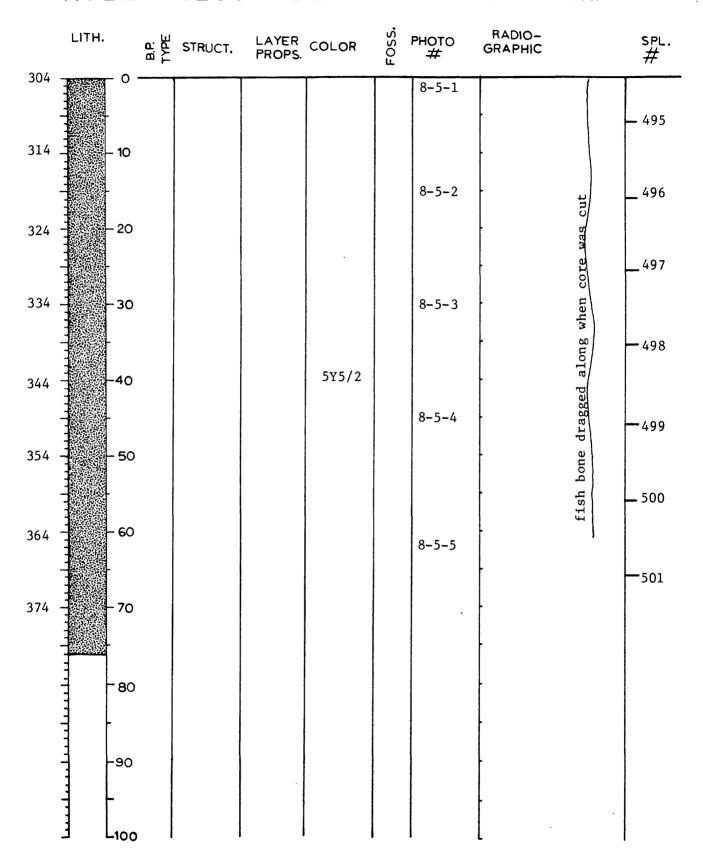
slight mottling and bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 4 DEPTH 228 cm. to 304 cm.



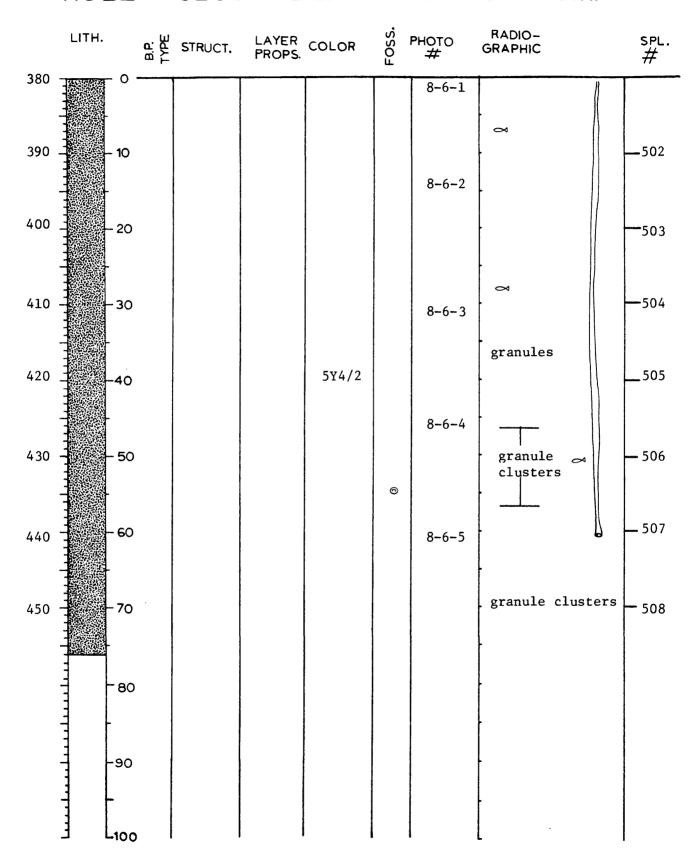
bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 5 DEPTH 304 cm. to 380 cm.



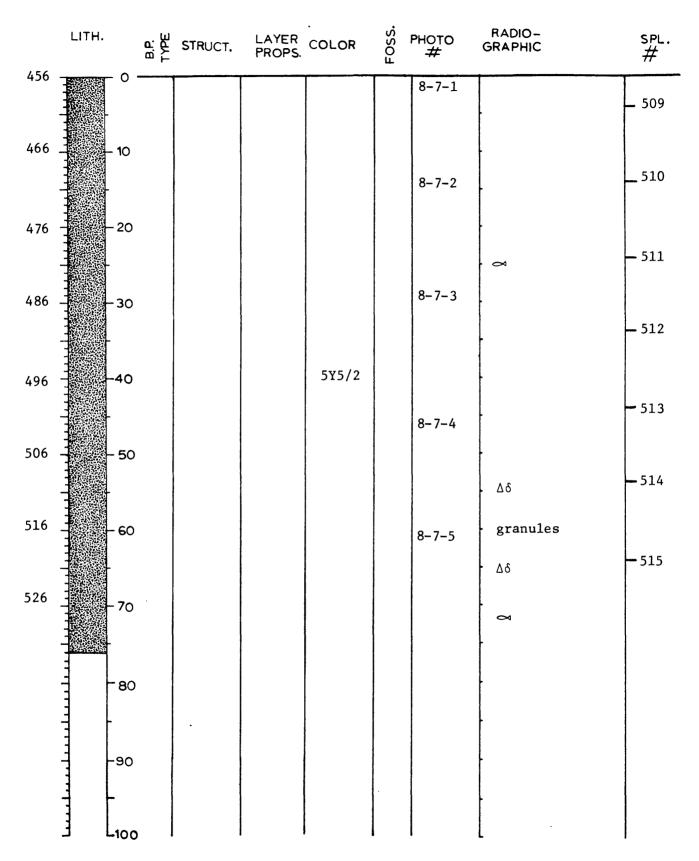
slight mottling and bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 6 DEPTH 380 cm. to 456 cm.

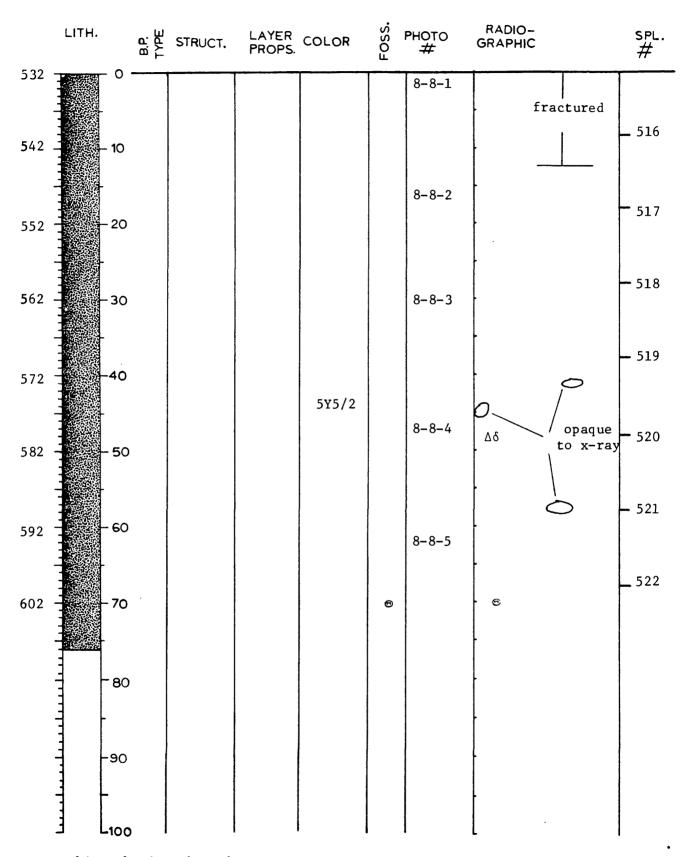


slight mottling throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 7 DEPTH 456 cm. to 532 cm.

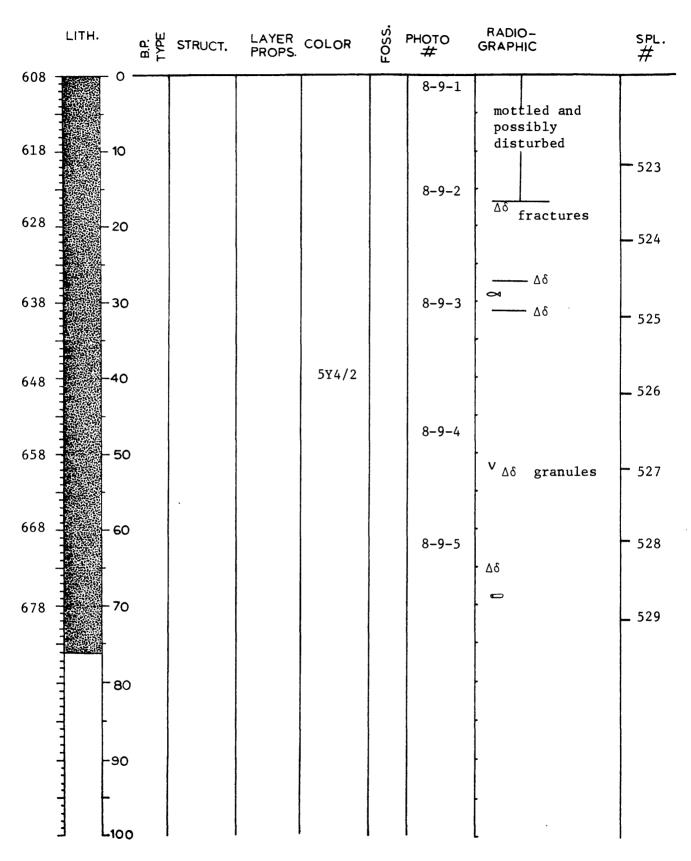


HOLE 8 SLUG 8 DEPTH 532 cm. to 608 cm.



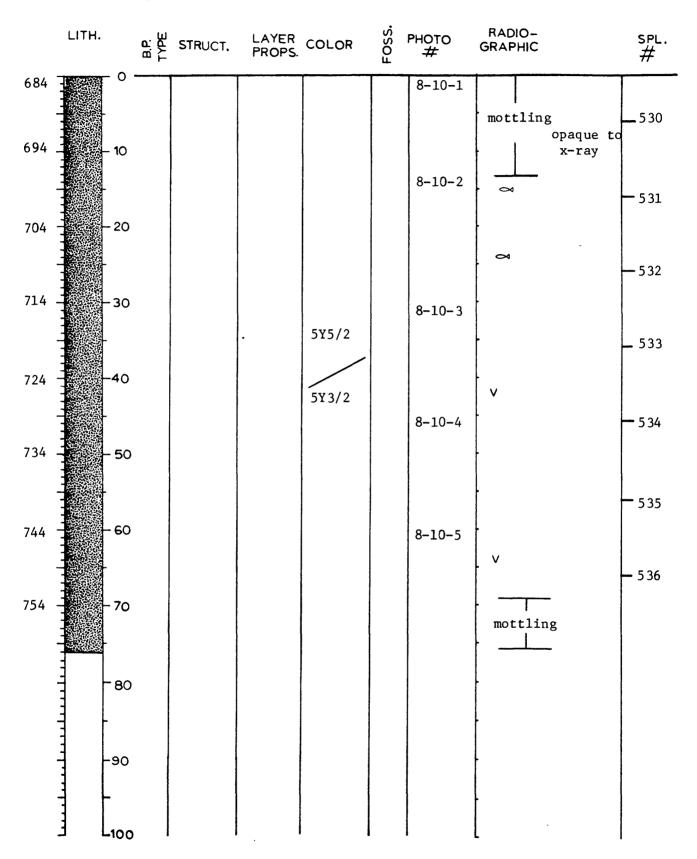
bioturbation throughout
disseminated fish bones throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 9 DEPTH 608 cm. to 684 cm.

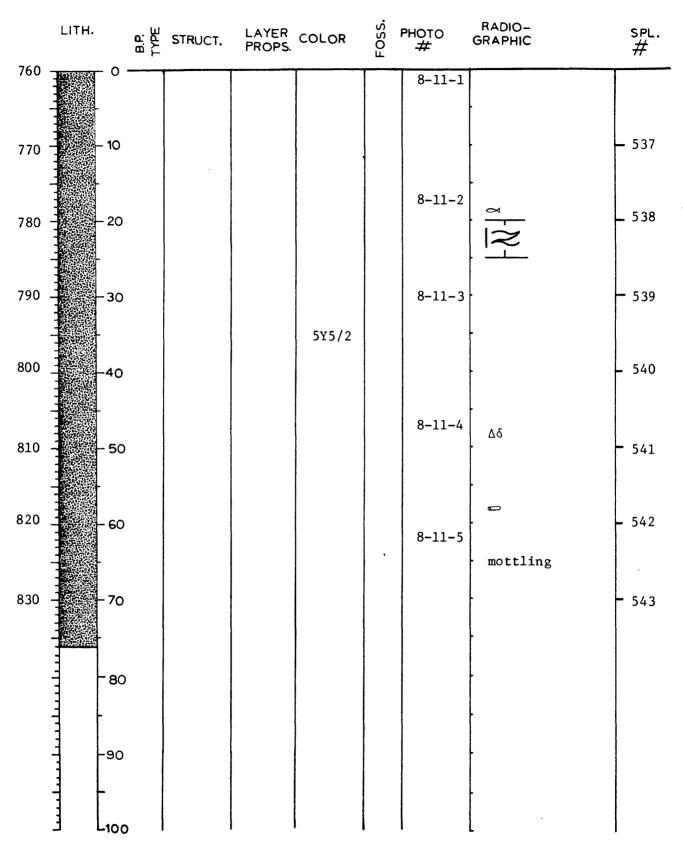


bioturbation throughout

HOLE & SLUG 10 DEPTH 684 cm. to 760 cm.

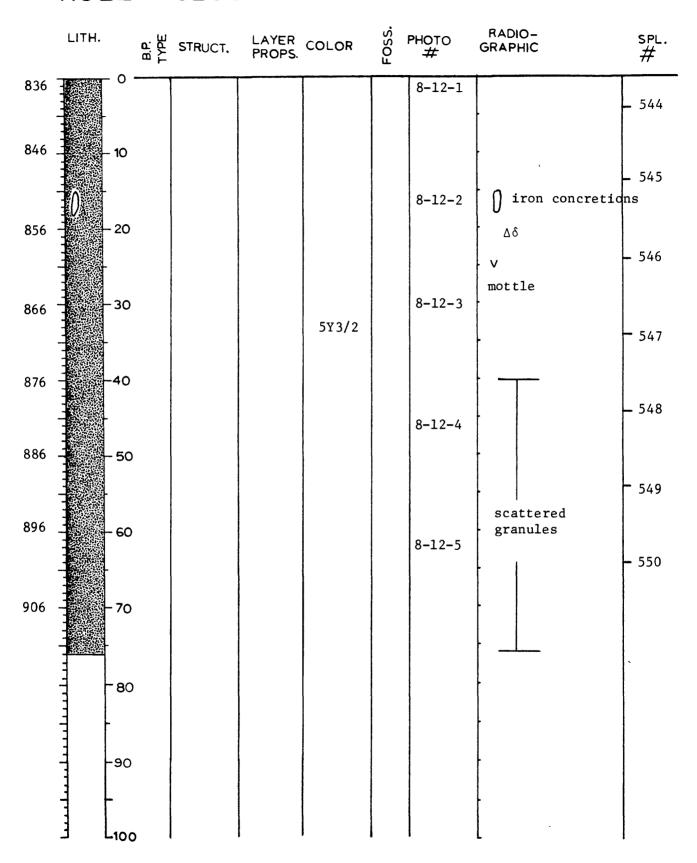


HOLE 8 SLUG 11 DEPTH 760 cm. to 836 cm.



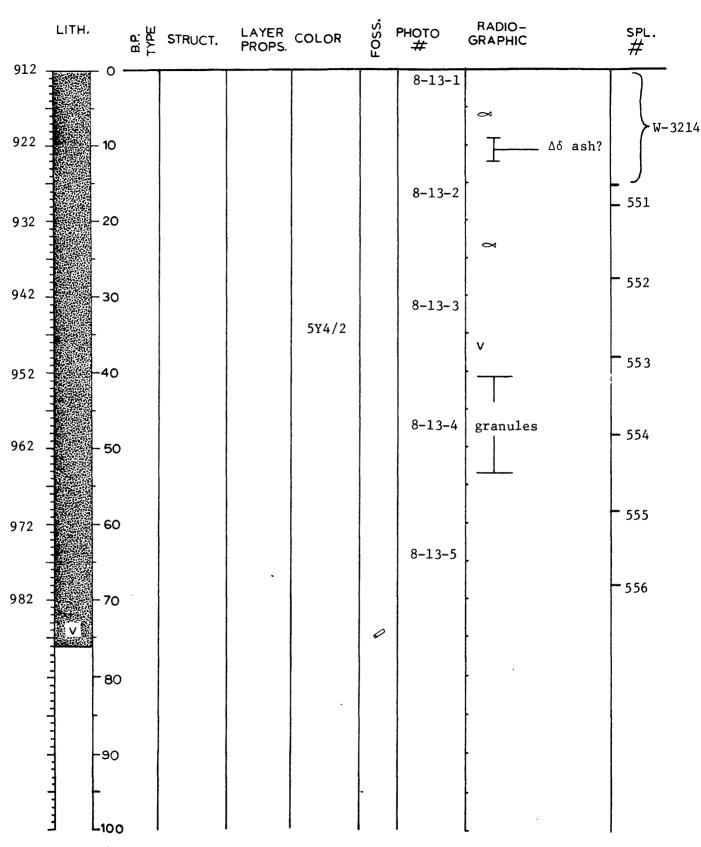
fractured in upper 18 cm bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 12 DEPTH 836 cm. to 912 cm.



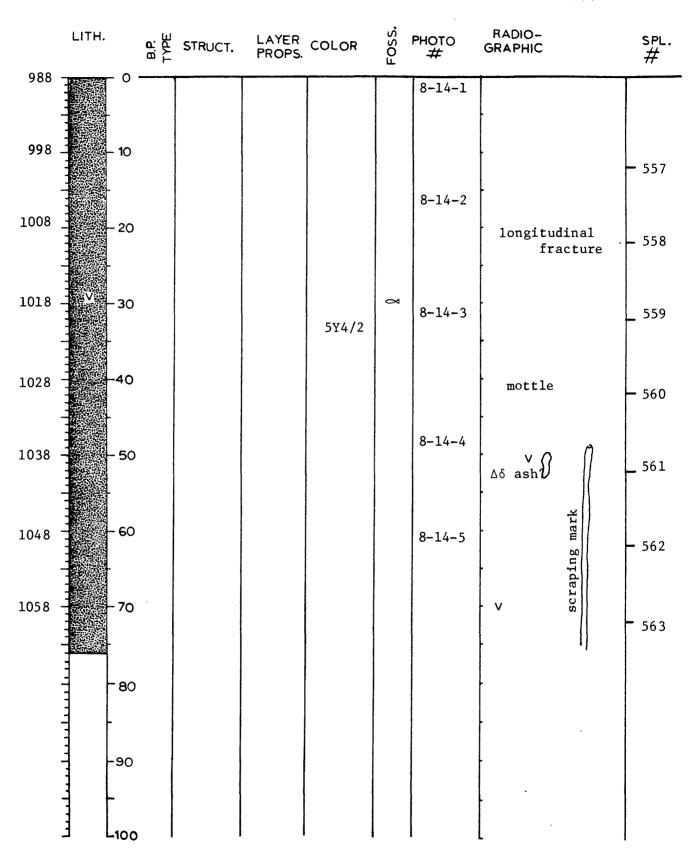
longitudinal crack below 20 cm bioturbation and disseminated granules throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 13 DEPTH 912 cm. to 988 cm.



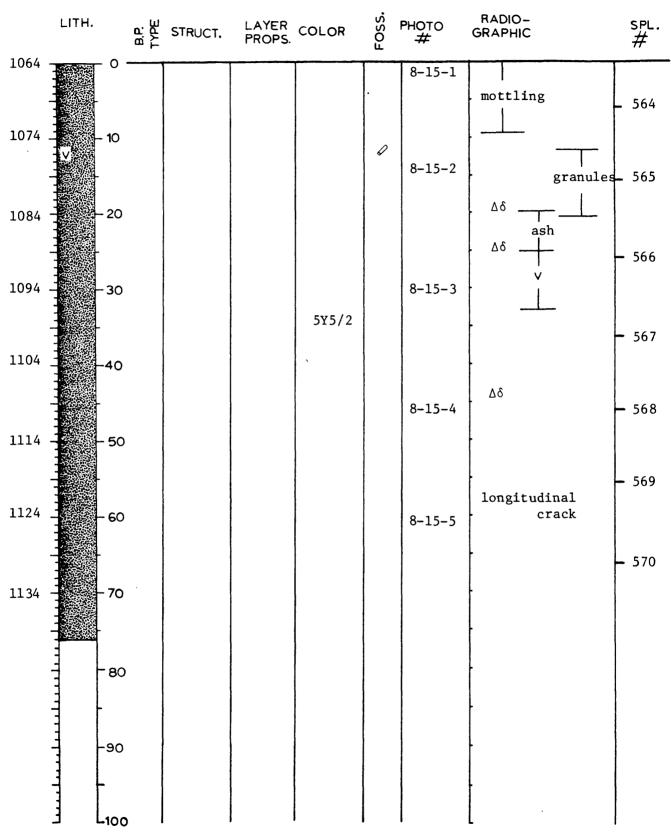
W-3214: $9,850 \pm 250$ verticle cracks above 69 cm bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 14 DEPTH 988 cm. to 1064 cm.



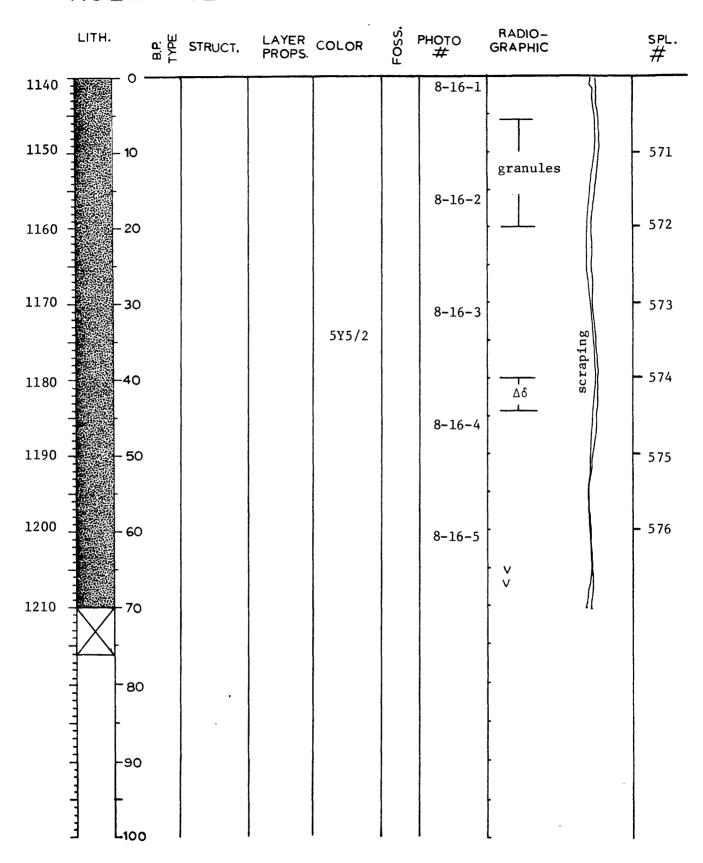
bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 15 DEPTH 1064 cm. to 1140 cm.



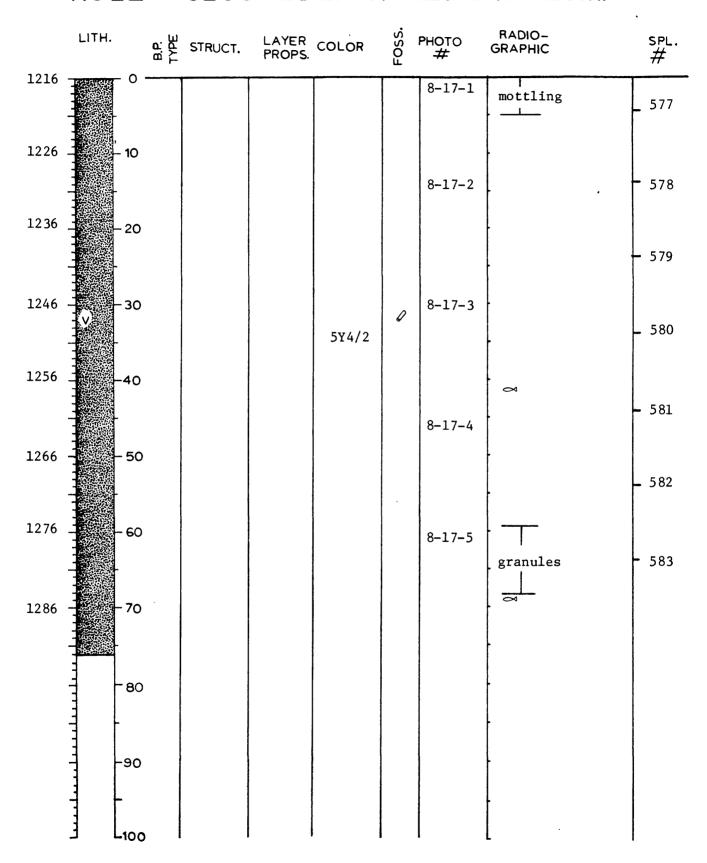
longitudinal crack upper 40 cm
bioturbation throughout (some w/ vivianite fillings)
disseminated fish bones throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 16 DEPTH 1140 cm. to 1216 cm.



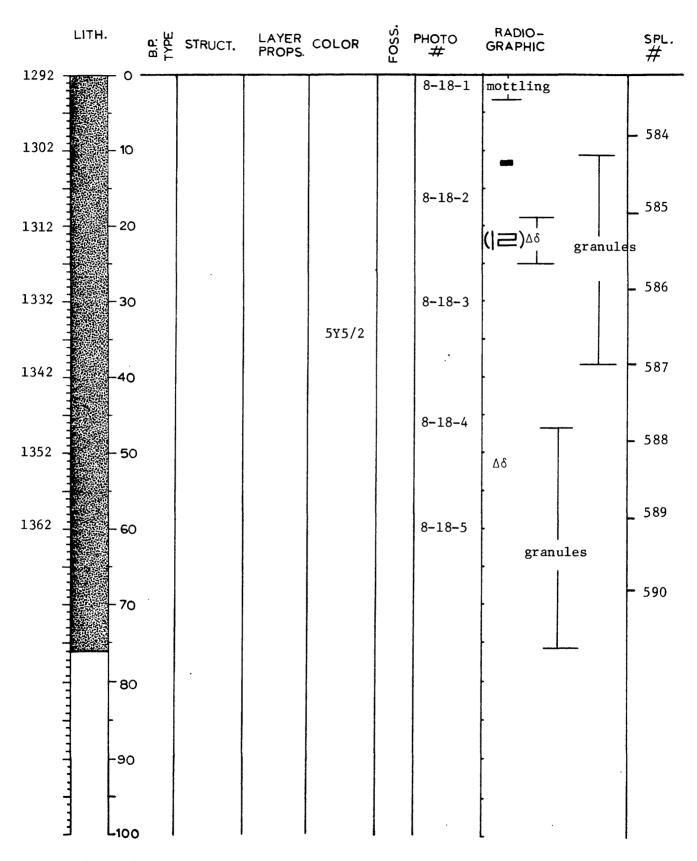
longitudinal and verticle cracking above 50 cm bioturbation and scattered mottling throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 17 DEPTH 1216 cm. to 1292 cm.



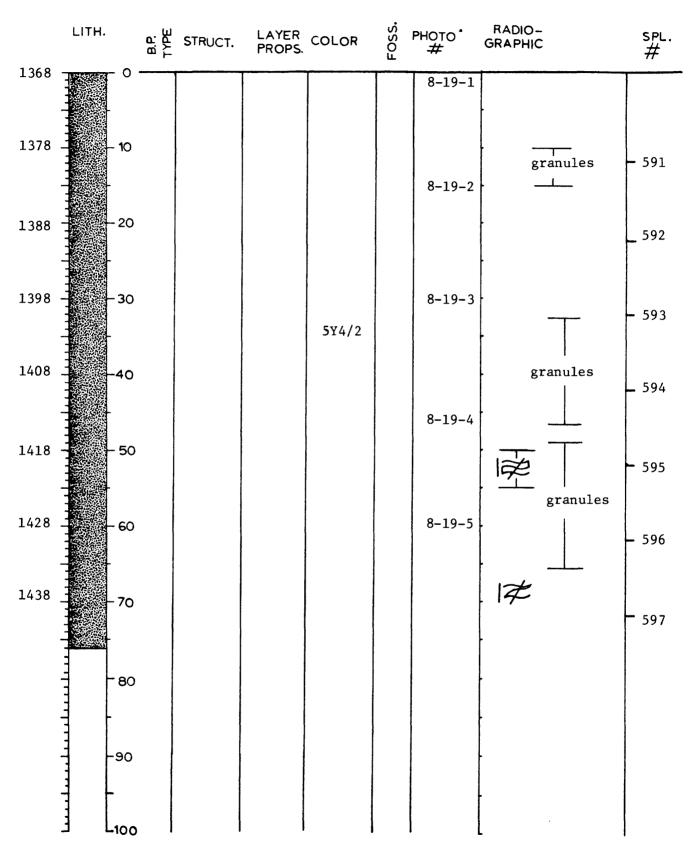
upper 17 cm badly fractured bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 18 DEPTH 1292 cm. to 1368 cm.



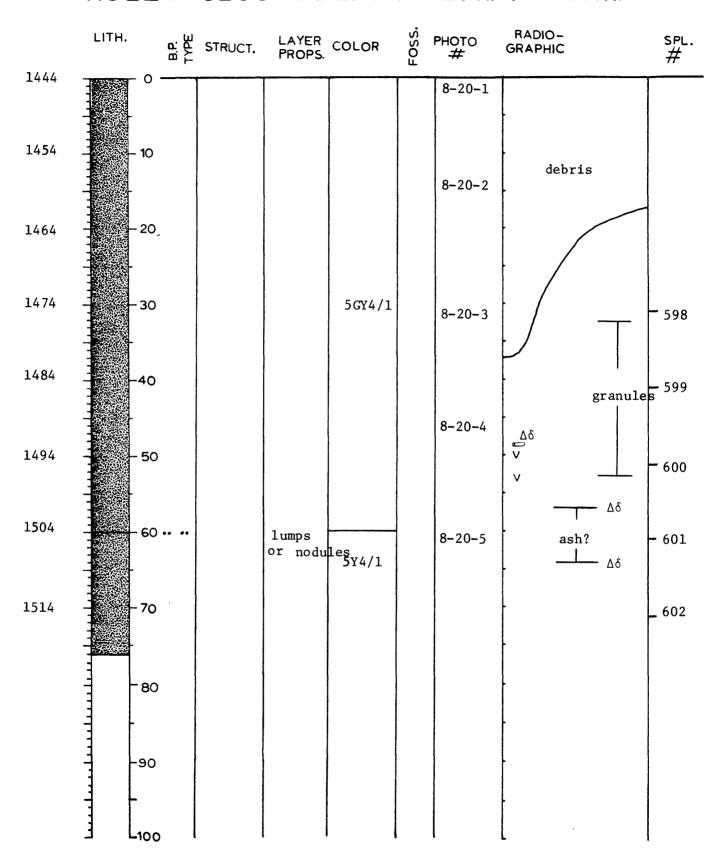
bioturbation and vertical cracks throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 19 DEPTH 1368 cm. to 1444 cm.



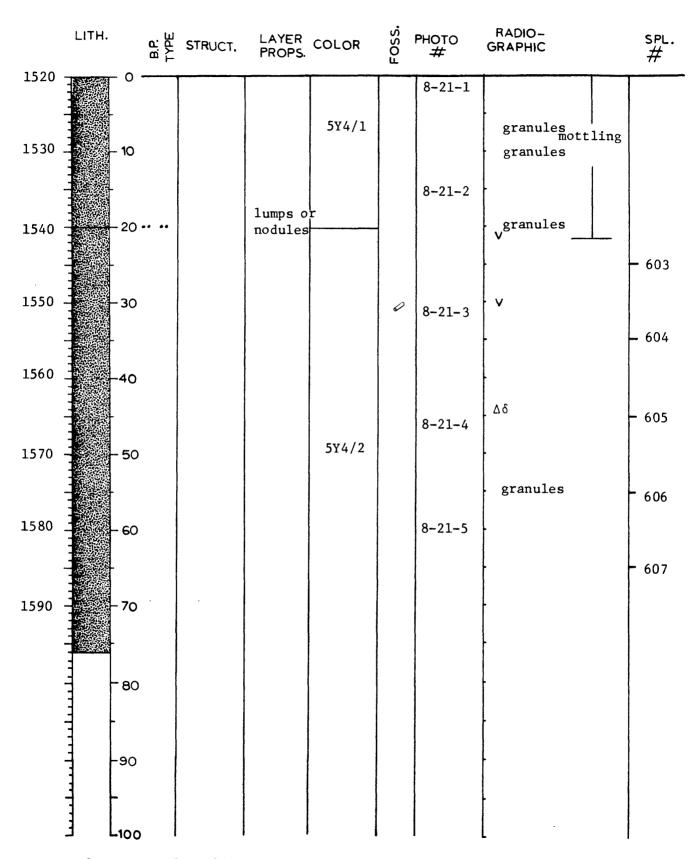
crumbly upper 10 cm and 47-50 cm bioturbation throughout disseminated fish bones throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 20 DEPTH 1444 cm. to 1520 cm.



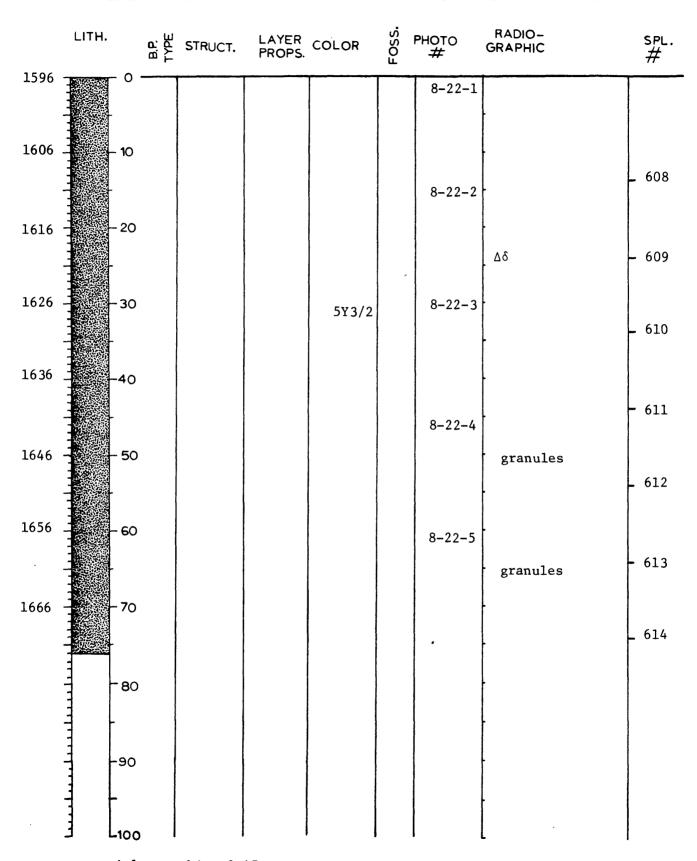
bioturbation throughout disseminated fish bones throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 21 DEPTH 1520 cm. to 1596 cm.



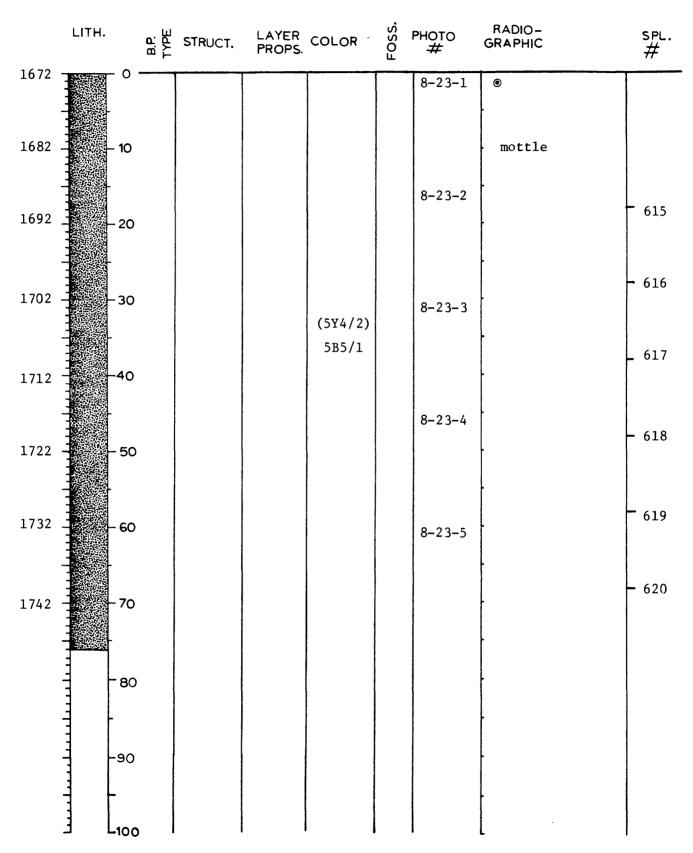
fracturing from 0-43 cm and 69-77 cm bioturbation throughout disseminated fish bones throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 22 DEPTH 1596 cm. to 1672 cm.



verticle cracking 0-47 cm slight mottling and bioturbation throughout vivianite (?) veins 42-64 cm disseminated fish bones throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 23 DEPTH 1672 cm. to 1748 cm.



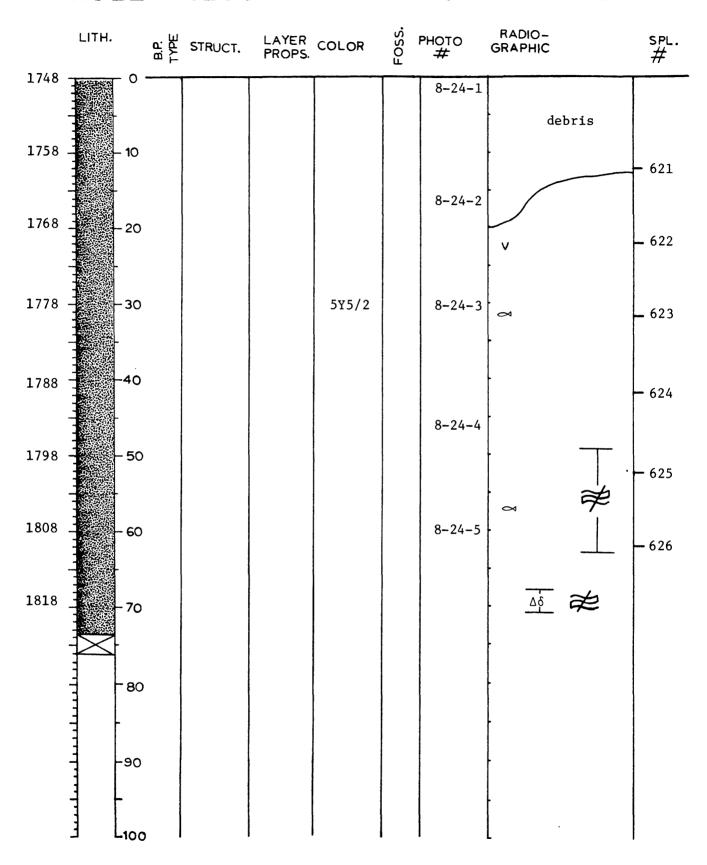
mottling is probably unoxidized mud

badly fractured spl.

mottling, granule clusters, disseminated vivianite and bioturbation throughout

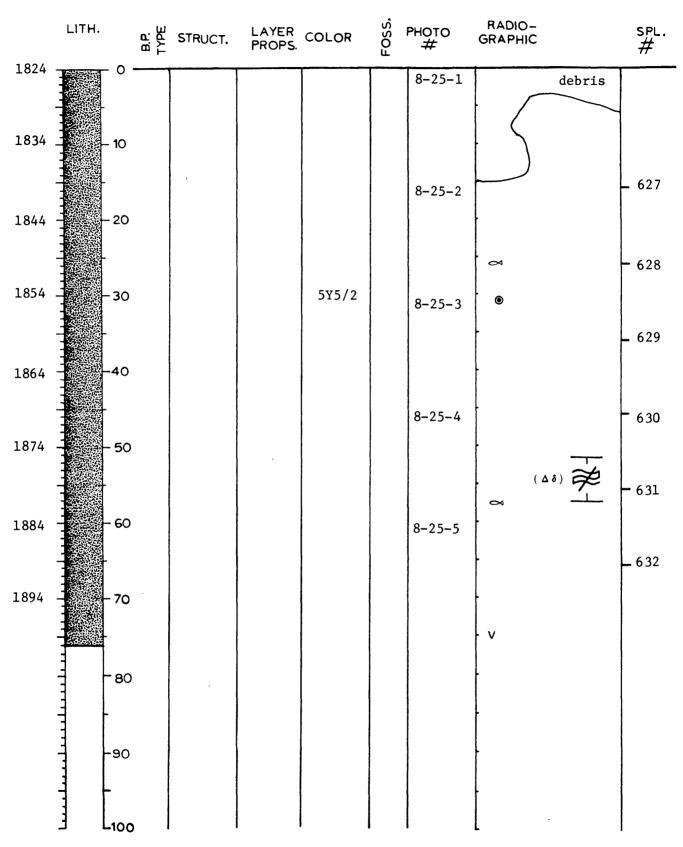
disseminated fish homes throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 24 DEPTH 1748 cm. to 1824 cm.



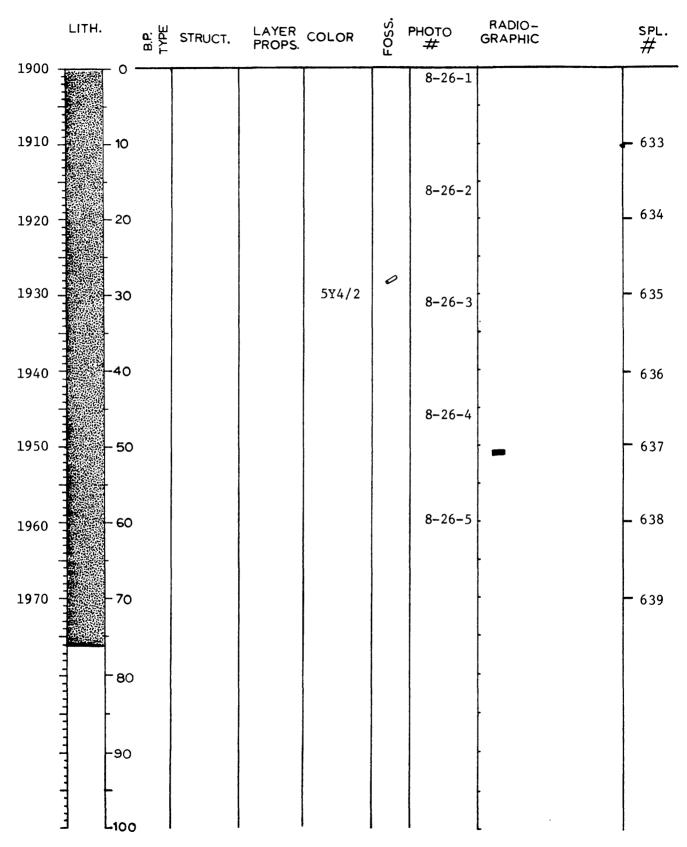
0-19 cm distrubed and mottled bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 25 DEPTH 1824 cm. to 1900 cm.



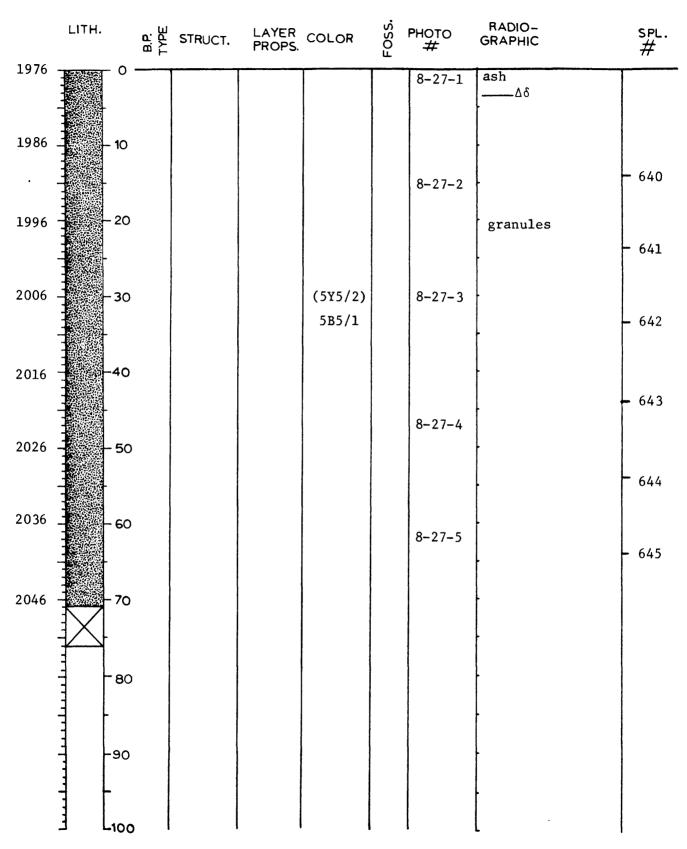
5G5/l unoxidized color bioturbation throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 26 DEPTH 1900 cm. to 1976 cm.



badly fractured when slice was taken, exceptionally sticky mottling, bioturbation, and granules throughout

HOLE 8 SLUG 27 DEPTH 1976 cm. to 2052 cm.



badly fractured
mottling, granules and bioturbation throughout

Appendix B

X-ray Radiographs













































